

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey today announced that the Hortonville Volunteer Fire Company has been awarded a \$94,490 federal grant to purchase new firefighting and safety equipment. The funds come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

"These federal funds will provide much-needed equipment and protective gear to support the dedicated efforts of our volunteer firefighters in the Hortonville Volunteer Fire Company," Hinchey said. "This new equipment will help keep firefighters safe as they respond to emergency calls in the community while sparing the local community from having to shoulder the cost of investing in these necessary items."

The funds allocated to the Hortonville Volunteer Fire Company will allow the purchase of 14 sets of new protective turnout gear for local volunteers. The funds will also go towards the purchase of two portable water pumps, which will be used to respond to flooding emergencies, and an air filling system to refill SCBA breathing tanks.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$14 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

The congressman has sponsored a number of workshops across his congressional district to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.